

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CHILDREN'S NETWORK

Policy Council Minutes

April 28, 2004

Members/Representatives Present:

- Mary Lynn Clark, Inland Regional Center
- Carol Anselmi, HSS Administration
- Sandra Baxter, County Counsel
- Don Larkin, First 5 San Bernardino
- Roberta York, Preschool Services
- Janet Cullen, Department of Children's Services
- Coley Bowman, Department of Children's Services
- Melissa Atkeson, Department of Children's Services
- Brian Thomson, Department of Children's Services
- Maury Sharifi, Department of Children's Services
- Randy Nobel, HSS Auditing
- Jim Felten, Department of Public Health
- Eric Frykman, Department of Public Health
- Kent Paxton, Children's Network Officer
- Paula Roby, Department of Behavioral Health
- Ed Rowe, Children's Network
- Claudia Spencer, Department of Public Health
- Honorable Rex Victor
- Julian Weaver, County Schools
- Pam Baily-Shimizu, First Nations
- Lisa Ordaz, HSS Contracts
- Panda Harris, HSS Contracts
- Sandra Challuprik, Center for Healing Childhood Trauma
- Jeanne Smith, Center for Healing Childhood Trauma
- Sue Taylor, Children's Network
- Jerry Harper, Probation Department
- Pat Cormican, Lutheran Social Services
- Theresa Vasquez, Lutheran Social Services
- Gary McMane, Catholic Charities
- Kathy Watkins, HSS Legislation and Research
- Tammy Williams, Children's Network

The meeting of the Children's Network Policy Council was called to order at 12:05 p.m. and convened by Honorable Rex Victor in the Citrus Room, fifth floor, County Government Center.

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Honorable Rex Victor welcomed those present and self-introductions were made. Jerry Harper the new Chief of Probation was welcomed and he spoke about some of his previous experiences.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to modify the agenda as: change order 5.2 before 5.1 and keep discussion of 5.2 short; 4.1 will be Kent Paxton for Rebecca Stafford; 4.2 Kent Paxton for Joyce Lewis; and 4.3 Sue Taylor for Susan Melanson.

3.0 Approval of March Minutes

The March 24, 2004 minutes were approved as submitted.

4.0 Information Items

4.1 Children's Fund Report

- Kent Paxton reported on behalf of Rebecca Stafford.
- Rebecca Stafford and Cathy Cimbalo are presently attending the Bonnes Mares Auxiliary Lunch. The Bonnes Mares Auxiliary group through fundraisers donated a sizable donation in order to purchase birthday gifts for all foster care children. Judge Victor sends a big thank you to Rebecca Stafford and Children's Fund Board for their sizable donation to be used at the Juvenile Dependency Court.

4.2 Interagency Release

- Kent referred everyone to the form in his or her packet.
- A committee had been discussing the form and the updates needed for the past 2 years.
- The form has the new HIPPA language added.
- County Counsel and the Board of Supervisors have approved use of the form on the basis of working with multiple agencies on cases.
- Joyce Lewis from the Department of Behavioral Health requested the form and discussion around it be placed on the agenda.
- The interagency form is good for one year, but the parent has the right to cancel it at any time.

- **ACTION: This Interagency Release form shall be dated 1/30/04. Carol Anselmi will make sure departments under her supervision will destroy all old versions and make sure this is only form in use for the purposes of Interagency work.**

4.3 Parenting Survey

- Sue Taylor referred everyone to the Parenting Survey in his or her packets.
- The survey of parenting resources countywide came out of the priorities determined at a previous Policy Council Meeting.
- A survey was mailed out to a variety of parenting resources countywide and out of that 4 groups were formed countywide (Big Bear, Central Valley, High Desert, and the West end).
- Several public information-gathering sessions were formed and the main request for help was; parents asked for tutoring for homework so they can help their own children.
- There was an overwhelming response to the groups formed.
- Another survey was distributed in February.
- There is a goal to reconvene these groups one last time to get their focus on issues and select a new facilitator so the groups will continue as needed.
- The current listing of parenting resources will be updated once a year and shared with Policy Council members.
- As a side note, there will be a Parenting Track at the Children's Network Annual Conference on September 29th and 30th.
- Judge Victor requested on the next survey mailed if the question could be asked, "What agency provides Court Ordered Visitation Services for parents". He would like to have a comprehensive list that could be used for Juvenile Dependency cases.
- Pamalee Baily-Shimizu from First Nations mentioned that they; bilingual tutors and parenting classes for parents with special needs children. They have a licensed therapist whom works with children.
- Mary Lynn Clark from the Inland Regional Center will have to research what type of parenting classes they offer. She mentioned they do provide some services at a sliding scale for parents whom take care of foster children.
- Part of the survey asked does the agency have a waiting list for parenting classes, the overwhelming response of 95% was no.

- One suggestion if possible to keep the resources to one page. It was felt the parenting survey information was a very useful tool.

5.0 Discussion/Action Items

5.1 **Child Abuse Prevention Contracts: Discussion/Approval Requested to forward the Child Abuse Prevention Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT) and Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) contracts to the Board of Supervisors**

- Veronica Hilton, Deputy Director from the Department of Children's Services reported on behalf of Cathy Cimbalo, Director of Children's Services.
- Everyone was directed to the PSSF (Promoting Safe and Stable Families) and the CAPIT (Child Abuse Prevention Intervention Treatment) section in their packets.
- The section in the packet referred above has specifics on the contract agencies amount of funding or lack of funding.
- The reason for some recommendation in funding is due to some shifting of Federal and State funding.
- The current PSSF contracts will run July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005, with not many changes.
- All the current CAPIT contracts were renewed with the exception of First Nations Tribal Family Center – (a full explanation is listed in the packet).
- Veronica explained that the Department of Children's Services has received in their possession today, April 28, 2004 a letter requesting reconsideration of the recommendation to take the decision not to renew the contract for First Nations Tribal Center under advisement.
- **Action: After much discussion, it was decided to not change the recommendation on the contract for First Nations Tribal Center.**
- The PSSF and CAPIT contractors were invited to attend Children's Network Policy Council to have their voices heard at the meeting today.

Comments from the Contractors:

- Pam Baily-Shimizu of First Nations Tribal Family Center: She had some concerns about the auditing/reviewal process of their case records. They have been working on fixing their tax problem as well. Pam talked about the many funding streams they use as well expansion of 5 offices and an auditorium.

Pam referred to 2 packets distributed at the meeting; (April 6, 2004 – Monitoring Report for Child Abuse Prevention Intervention and Treatment Contract #02-525 A-1 (CAPIT) and April 27, 2004 (Letter addressed to Kent Paxton and Policy Council Members for CAPIT these packets state more of the detailed information. Pam talked about the numbers served and the consideration taken for the number of clients they continued in therapy even though the previous contract ended. There was some discussion about how a child abuse situation of one of their clients had been handled.

- **ACTION: Due to some concerns mentioned: Not meeting the proposed number of clients to be served; and IRS issues it was unanimously decided to keep the recommendation in place and not renew the contract for the First Nations Tribal Family Center.**

5.2 School Resource Directory: Approval requested to print and distribute the Resource Directory

- Julian mentioned at the meeting last month a draft School Resource Directory was distributed for input.
- Some changes requested as a result of the meeting were: change cover page of April 2004; Department of Public Health added 3 programs; Department of Behavioral Health deleted 2 programs; the Sheriff's Department needed a corrected title; and added the Department of Children's Services. The initial group will reconvene once every 6 months to update the resources in this notebook. From this point forward no hard copies will be distributed, distribution will be through a CD. A request made was enter the resource directory on the San Bernardino County web site.
- **ACTION: After a short discussion there was a unanimous decision to publish the resource directory with the changes as noted.**

6.0 Other

- Kent Paxton reported: Dr. Chasnoff from the Children's Research Triangle was out consulting with various county and community members. As you recall, a Leadership Team was formulated as a result of efforts from the Perinatal Coalition. The work has been progressing very well on the Perinatal side.

Discussions are now beginning on the Plan to Plan for the Children's SART (Screening Assessment Referral Treatment). The Children's SART will be focusing on the zero to five population. The funding for the Children's SART is being explored with First 5 San Bernardino and the Children's Fund Executive Board. The Children's Network Annual Conference on September 29th and 30th will be the kickoff for the Perinatal Leadership Team (PLT) and the Children's SART as Dr. Chasnoff is the keynote speaker. The current plan is to have a retreat in the fall with Dr. Chasnoff for work on the Children's SART Plan to Plan after the Children's Network conference. Various county and community agencies are involved in the planning processes for both groups. In June Fresno County will begin their program (*SMART*) to serve children zero. Their anticipated expenses per child per year will be \$3,000 compared to our \$5600 per month per child for group home placements, so that is one of the main reasons for starting this early intervention process. Kent will continue to provide follow-up on these two committees.

- Honorable Rex Victor mentioned he has been impressed with networking in the community and the well-driven approach of the Perinatal Leadership Team.
- Don Larkin of First 5 San Bernardino reported: They have been very busy with the ongoing procurement of resource centers and parenting education. The response around the county so far on the workshops has been very positive.
- Julian Weaver from County Superintendent Schools reported: An advisory group met last week on AB 490 coordination and implementation. They expect to have two product outcomes. Julian expects to bring back some recommendations in the near future.
- Kathy Watkins of HSS (Human Services System) Legislation and Research reported the bill sponsored by Assemblyman Longville AB2149 passed unopposed that deals with improvement of the quality care in-group homes. Kathy will be traveling tomorrow to Sacramento to meet with State Department, CCL (Community Care Licensing), and Group Home Association Alliance for Children and Families. Kathy mentioned it is hopeful that through this bill they will be able to obtain more information on all children placed in-group homes in San Bernardino County. Kent Paxton mentioned that the Board of Supervisors signed off of a Board Moratorium for Group Homes in San Bernardino County.

A working group will be looking at the RFP process to go out in the fall that will cover the needs of placements by: Probation, Department of Children's Services and Department of Behavioral Health.

- Honorable Rex Victor reported they are working on hoping to provide a Mental Health Court for Juveniles that do not necessarily need placement. The protocol is being worked on now.

7.0 Public Comment

No comment

**8.0 Next Meeting: May 26, 2004 – *cancelled due to Budget Hearings*
June 23, 2004**

Respectfully Submitted,

**Tammy Williams, Children's Network
Policy Council Recording Secretary**

/tgw